

USMLE STEP 3

JX-25

Overview

Step 3 Application

Critical Announcements

Step 3 FAQ

Home / USMLE Step 3 / State Specific Requirements for Initial Medical Licensure

STATE SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS FOR INITIAL MEDICAL LICENSURE

FSMB reviews and updates this information annually and/or at the request of a board. We strongly encourage you to use this as a guide and to contact the board for the most recent information. Contact information for all boards is available at: https://www.fsmb.org/contact-a-state-medical-board/

AL AK AZ AR CA CO CT DE DC FL GA GU HI ID IL IN IA KS KY LA ME MD MA MI MN MS MO MT NE NV NH NJ NM NY NC ND MP OH OK OR PA PR RI AS SC SD TN TX UT VT VI VA WA WV WI WY

Alabama

✓ Accepts FCVS





· No limit on COMLEX

Minimum Postgraduate Training Required

- · 1 year ACGME training for US grads
- · 3 years ACGME training for IMG's

Time Limit for Completing Licensing Examination Sequence

- · 7 years to successfully complete all USMLE Steps
- No limit on COMLEX (if board certified by one of the ABMS approved boards can complete all parts in 10 years)

Alaska

✓ Accepts FCVS

Number of attempts at Licensing Exam

- · 2 attempts per USMLE Step
- · 2 attempts per COMLEX Level

Minimum Postgraduate Training Required

- 2 years
- · 3 years IMG

Time Limit for Completing Licensing Examination Sequence

- · 7 years to complete USMLE
- 10 years for MD/PhD candidates
- 7 years to complete COMLEX





Number of attempts at Licensing Exam

. No limit on USMLE

Minimum Postgraduate Training Required

- 1 year
- · 3 years IMG

Time Limit for Completing Licensing Examination Sequence

- · 7 years to complete USMLE if initial licensure
- · No limit if already licensed

Arizona Osteopathic

✓ Accepts FCVS

Number of attempts at Licensing Exam

· Contact the board for information

Minimum Postgraduate Training Required

• 1 year

Time Limit for Completing Licensing Examination Sequence

· Contact the board for information

Arkansas

✓ Accepts FCVS





Minimum Postgraduate Training Required

- 1 year
- 3 years IMG unless currently enrolled in training program through University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.

Time Limit for Completing Licensing Examination Sequence

No limit on USMLE or COMLEX

California Medical

✓ Limited acceptance of FCVS

Number of attempts at Licensing Exam

• 4 attempts at USMLE Step 3

Minimum Postgraduate Training Required

- 1 year
- · 2 years IMG

Time Limit for Completing Licensing Examination Sequence

 Passing scores on a written/computerized exam shall be valid for a period of 10 years from the month of the examination

California Osteopathic

✓ Limited Acceptance of FCVS

Number of attempts at Licensing Exam





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• 1 year

Time Limit for Completing Licensing Examination Sequence

· No limit on COMLEX

Colorado

✓ Accepts FCVS

Number of attempts at Licensing Exam

- · No limit on USMLE
- · No information available on COMLEX

Minimum Postgraduate Training Required

- 1 year
- · 3 years IMG

Time Limit for Completing Licensing Examination Sequence

- 7 years from first sitting to complete USMLE or COMLEX
- · 10 years for MD/PhD or DO/PhD candidates

Connecticut

✓ Accepts FCVS

Number of attempts at Licensing Exam

· No limit on USMLE





Minimum Postgraduate Training Required

· 2 years

Time Limit for Completing Licensing Examination Sequence

- 7 years to complete USMLE
- · No limit on COMLEX

Delaware

✓ Accepts FCVS

Number of attempts at Licensing Exam

· No more than 6 attempts to pass each step

Minimum Postgraduate Training Required

- 1 year
- · 3 years IMG

Time Limit for Completing Licensing Examination Sequence

· 7 years to complete USMLE

Washington, DC

✓ Accepts FCVS

Number of attempts at Licensing Exam

- 3 attempts at USMLE Step 3; After which one additional year of postgraduate training is required.
- · No limit on COMLEX





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· 7 years to complete USMLE; No limit on COMLEX

Florida Medical

✓ Highly recommends FCVS

Number of attempts at Licensing Exam

No limit on USMLE

Minimum Postgraduate Training Required

- 1 year
- · 2 years IMG

Time Limit for Completing Licensing Examination Sequence

No limit on USMLE

Florida Osteopathic

✓ Highly recommends FCVS

Number of attempts at Licensing Exam

· Contact the board for information

Minimum Postgraduate Training Required

· 1 year in an AOA-approved program

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Georgia

✓ Accepts FCVS

Number of attempts at Licensing Exam

- 3 attempts per USMLE Step
- · No limit on COMLEX

Minimum Postgraduate Training Required

- 1 year
- · 1 year if IMG is on list
- · 3 years IMG if not on list

Time Limit for Completing Licensing Examination Sequence

- 7 years to complete USMLE
- 9 years to complete USMLE if in MD/PhD program
- · No limit on COMLEX

Guam

✓ Accepts FCVS

Number of attempts at Licensing Exam

· No information at this time

Minimum Postgraduate Training Required

· No information at this time





Hawaii

✓ Accepts FCVS

Number of attempts at Licensing Exam

· No limit on USMLE or COMLEX

Minimum Postgraduate Training Required

- 1 year
- · 2 years IMG

Time Limit for Completing Licensing Examination Sequence

No limit on USMLE or COMLEX

Idaho

- ✓ Accepts FCVS
- ✓ Requires Uniform Application

Number of attempts at Licensing Exam

- Failure to pass USMLE after 2 attempts may lead to Board interview or evaluation
- No limit on COMLEX

Minimum Postgraduate Training Required

- 1 year
- 3 years IMG (can be licensed after 2 years if in good standing with Idaho residency training program, and has signed an agreement to complete residency in Idaho)



Time Limit for Completing Licensing Examination Sequence

No limit on USMLE or COMLEX



Illinois

✓ Accepts FCVS

Number of attempts at Licensing Exam

- · 5 attempts at all USMLE Steps combined
- · 5 attempts at COMLEX Levels combined

Minimum Postgraduate Training Required

· 24 months of training

Time Limit for Completing Licensing Examination Sequence

- 7 years to complete USMLE
- · No limit on COMLEX

Indiana

✓ Accepts FCVS

Number of attempts at Licensing Exam

- 3 attempts per USMLE Step
- · 5 attempts per COMLEX Level

Minimum Postgraduate Training Required

- 1 year
- · 2 years IMG

Time Limit for Completing Licensing Examination Sequence

• 10 years to complete USMLE





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- ✓ Accepts FCVS
- ✓ Utilizes Uniform Application

Number of attempts at Licensing Exam

- 6 attempts at both USMLE Step 1 and 2
- · 3 attempts at USMLE Step 3
- · 6 attempts at both COMLEX Levels 1 and 2
- · 3 attempts at COMLEX Level 3
- · 3 years of approved postgraduate training required if outside the attempt limit.

Minimum Postgraduate Training Required

- 1 year
- · 2 years IMG

Time Limit for Completing Licensing Examination Sequence

- 10 years to complete USMLE or COMLEX
- 10 years for MD/PhD or DO/PhD candidates. Note: Board certification by ABMS or AOA is required if the
 applicant has not met the specified time period.

Kansas

✓ Accepts FCVS

Number of attempts at Licensing Exam

3+ attempts at USMLE Step 3 or COMLEX Level 3

Minimum Postgraduate Training Required

- 1 year
- 3 years IMG (minimum 2 years in an ACGME approved program)





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Kentucky

✓ Requires FCVS

Number of attempts at Licensing Exam

- · Step or Level 1-4 attempts
- · Step or Level 2 CK-4 attempts
- · Step or Level 2 CS-4 attempts
- · Step or Level 3-4 attempts

Minimum Postgraduate Training Required

· 2 years

Time Limit for Completing Licensing Examination Sequence

No limit on USMLE or COMLEX

Louisiana

✓ Requires FCVS

Number of attempts at Licensing Exam

- · No limit at USMLE Step 1 or COMLEX Level 1
- 4 attempts each at USMLE Steps 2 and 3 or COMLEX Levels 2 and 3

Minimum Postgraduate Training Required

2 years





Maine Medical

✓ Requires FCVS

Number of attempts at Licensing Exam

• 3 attempts at USMLE Step 3. More than 3 attempts requires a request for a waiver.

Minimum Postgraduate Training Required

US/Canadian medical school graduates who graduated after July 1, 2004 must complete 3 years of ACGME accredited postgraduate training. (Those who graduated before July 1, 2004 are only required to complete 2 years of ACGME accredited PGT.) IMGs 3 years of ACGME accredited.

Time Limit for Completing Licensing Examination Sequence

7 years to complete exam sequence (NBME, USMLE, and FLEX) More than 7 years requires a waiver.

Maine Osteopathic

✓ Accepts FCVS

Number of attempts at Licensing Exam

· 3 attempts at each Step/Level

Minimum Postgraduate Training Required

• 1 year in AOA approved program

Time Limit for Completing Licensing Examination Sequence

· No limit on COMLEX





Maryland

✓ Accepts FCVS

Number of attempts at Licensing Exam

· Unlimited attempts at each USMLE Step or COMLEX Level

Minimum Postgraduate Training Required

- 1 year
- · 2 years IMG

Time Limit for Completing Licensing Examination Sequence

 No time limit. There are additional requirements if an applicant fails an exam 3 or more times (See Health Occupations Article, Section 14-307(g))

Massachusetts

✓ Requires FCVS

Number of attempts at Licensing Exam

3 attempts at USMLE Step 3 or COMLEX (See Board Regulations 243 CMR 2.02 (3)(b).)

Minimum Postgraduate Training Required

- Prior to January 2014, 2 years for domestic graduates and 2 years for IMGs.
- After January 2014, 2 years for domestic graduates and 3 years for IMGs.

Time Limit for Completing Licensing Examination Sequence

 7 years to complete USMLE or COMLEX. May request a waiver under specific conditions. (See Board Regulations 243 CMR 2.02 (3)(c)(2).)





Michigan Medical

✓ Accepts FCVS

Number of attempts at Licensing Exam

· 3 attempts at each USMLE Step

Minimum Postgraduate Training Required

2 years

Time Limit for Completing Licensing Examination Sequence

Must pass all Steps of the USMLE within 7 years from the date of first passing any Step of the exam. Must
pass Step 3 within 4 years of the first attempt at Step 3 or must complete 1 year of post-graduate training
before making additional attempts at Step 3.

Michigan Osteopathic

✓ Accepts FCVS

Number of attempts at Licensing Exam

· 6 attempts total for each examination

Minimum Postgraduate Training Required

· 1 year in AOA approved program

Time Limit for Completing Licensing Examination Sequence

 Pass all components of the COMLEX-USA within 7 years from the date you first passed any component of the COMLEX-USA





Minnesota

✓ Accepts FCVS

Number of attempts at Licensing Exam

- 3 attempts at each USMLE Step, 4 attempts allowed if current license in another State and current certification by specialty board of ABMS, AOABPE, RCPSC, CFPC.
- · 3 attempts at each COMLEX Level.

Minimum Postgraduate Training Required

1 year

Time Limit for Completing Licensing Examination Sequence

 USMLE or COMLEX Step or Level 3 must be passed within 5 years of Step or Level 2 or before the end of residency training.

Mississippi

✓ Accepts FCVS

Number of attempts at Licensing Exam

- · 3 attempts at each Step
- · No limit on COMLEX

Minimum Postgraduate Training Required

- 1 year
- 1-3 years IMG

Time Limit for Completing Licensing Examination Sequence

- 7 years to complete USMLE
- · No limit on COMLEX





Missouri

✓ Accepts FCVS

Number of attempts at Licensing Exam

- 3 attempts at USMLE Step 3
- · 3 attempts on COMLEX

Minimum Postgraduate Training Required

- 1 year
- · 3 years IMG

Time Limit for Completing Licensing Examination Sequence

- 7 years to complete USMLE (waived for MD/PhD candidates)
- · No limit on COMLEX

Montana

✓ Accepts FCVS

Number of attempts at Licensing Exam

- If an applicant fails to pass the first attempt at USMLE Step III, the applicant may be reexamined no more than five additional times.
- · No limit on COMLEX

Minimum Postgraduate Training Required

- · Completion of an approved residency program
- · 3 years IMG

Time Limit for Completing Licensing Examination Sequence

• 7 years to complete USMLE (exceptions possible for MD/PhD candidates)





Nebraska

✓ Accepts FCVS

Number of attempts at Licensing Exam

- · 4 attempts+ at each USMLE Step
- · 4 attempts+ at each COMLEX Level

Minimum Postgraduate Training Required

- 1 year
- · 3 years IMG

Time Limit for Completing Licensing Examination Sequence

10 years to complete USMLE or COMLEX beginning with date first Step/Level is passed.

Nevada Medical

✓ Accepts FCVS

Number of attempts at Licensing Exam

 Must pass all 3 Steps of USMLE in not more than a total of 9 attempts and must pass Step 3 in not more than a total of 3 attempts

Minimum Postgraduate Training Required

3 years. An unlimited license may be granted to currently enrolled residents in a post graduate training program
in the U.S. or Canada, that have completed at least 24 months of progressive post graduate training and meet
all requirements for an unlimited license in the state of Nevada, including having passed all 3 steps of USMLE
within the time period allowed by NAC 630.080 and commit in writing to the Nevada State Board of Medical





Time Limit for Completing Licensing Examination Sequence

MD must pass all Steps of the exam within 7 years after the date on which the applicant first passes any Step
of the exam; PhD must pass all Steps of the exam within 10 years after the date on which the applicant first
passes any Step of the exam.

Nevada Osteopathic

✓ Accepts FCVS

Number of attempts at Licensing Exam

· No limit on COMLEX

Minimum Postgraduate Training Required

• 3 years for full license OR 2 years if resident signs commitment to practice in NV

Time Limit for Completing Licensing Examination Sequence

No limit on COMLEX

New Hampshire

✓ Requires FCVS

Number of attempts at Licensing Exam

· 3 attempts at each USMLE Step or COMLEX Level

Minimum Postgraduate Training Required

2 years





New Jersey

✓ Accepts FCVS

Number of attempts at Licensing Exam

- 5 attempts at USMLE Step 3
- · No information available on COMLEX

Minimum Postgraduate Training Required

 US and IMG graduates who graduated after July 1, 2003 must complete 2 years of postgraduate training and have signed a contract for a 3rd year in an accredited program. At least 2 of the years must be in the same field. Graduates prior to July 1, 2003: 1 year; 3 years IMG.

Time Limit for Completing Licensing Examination Sequence

- 7 years to complete USMLE
- · No information available on COMLEX

New Mexico Medical

✓ Highly recommends FCVS

Number of attempts at Licensing Exam

· 6 attempts per USMLE Step

Minimum Postgraduate Training Required

· 2 years

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New Mexico Osteopathic

✓ Highly recommends FCVS

Number of attempts at Licensing Exam

· No limit on COMLEX

Minimum Postgraduate Training Required

1 year

Time Limit for Completing Licensing Examination Sequence

· Within 7 years of having passed the first level

New York

- Accepts FCVS for domestic graduates
- ✓ IMGs-FCVS required

Number of attempts at Licensing Exam

No limit on USMLE or COMLEX

Minimum Postgraduate Training Required

- · Domestic 1 year
- · IMG 3 years

Time Limit for Completing Licensing Examination Sequence

· No limit on USMLE or COMLEX





North Carolina

- ✓ Accepts FCVS
- Requires FCVS for Physicians with an established FCVS Profile and for IMG's (unless eligible for an Expedited License)

Number of attempts at Licensing Exam

- · 3 attempts per USMLE Step
- · 3 attempts per COMLEX Level

Minimum Postgraduate Training Required

- 1 year
- · 2 years IMG

Time Limit for Completing Licensing Examination Sequence

· No time limit for passing all 3 steps

North Dakota

✓ Accepts FCVS

Number of attempts at Licensing Exam

· 3 attempts at each USMLE Step or COMLEX Level

Minimum Postgraduate Training Required

- 1 year
- · 30 months IMG of ACGME accredited training

Time Limit for Completing Licensing Examination Sequence

· 7 years to complete USMLE or COMLEX





Northern Mariana Islands

✓ Accepts FCVS

Number of attempts at Licensing Exam

· No information available at this time

Minimum Postgraduate Training Required

· No information available at this time

Time Limit for Completing Licensing Examination Sequence

· No information available at this time

Ohio

✓ Requires FCVS

Number of attempts at Licensing Exam

An applicant for licensure has a total of 5 attempts (or 5 times to fail) a USMLE Step or COMLEX Level. The
applicant must have passed on the 6th attempt.

Minimum Postgraduate Training Required

- 1 year
- · 2 years IMG

Time Limit for Completing Licensing Examination Sequence

• 10 years to complete USMLE or COMLEX (possible waiver good cause if over 10 years)





Oklahoma Medical

✓ Accept FCVS

Number of attempts at Licensing Exam

• 3 attempts at each USMLE Step (Step 2 = CK & CS)

Minimum Postgraduate Training Required

- 1 year
- 2 years IMG

Time Limit for Completing Licensing Examination Sequence

• 10 years to complete USMLE

Oklahoma Osteopathic

✓ Accepts FCVS

Number of attempts at Licensing Exam

· Contact the board for information

Minimum Postgraduate Training Required

• 1 year

Time Limit for Completing Licensing Examination Sequence

· No limit on COMLEX





Oregon

✓ Accepts FCVS

Number of attempts at Licensing Exam

3 attempts at USMLE step 3/COMLEX level 3. 4th attempt after additional 1 year postgraduate training. Waiver
of attempt requirement may be available if ABMS/AOA certified.

Minimum Postgraduate Training Required

- 1 year
- · 3 years IMG

Time Limit for Completing Licensing Examination Sequence

· 7 years to complete USMLE or COMLEX

Pennsylvania Medical

✓ Accepts FCVS

Number of attempts at Licensing Exam

· No more than 4 attempts at each Step or Step Component

Minimum Postgraduate Training Required

• 2 years

Time Limit for Completing Licensing Examination Sequence

• 7 years to complete USMLE





Pennsylvania Osteopathic

✓ Accepts FCVS

Number of attempts at Licensing Exam

· No limit on COMLEX

Minimum Postgraduate Training Required

1 year

Time Limit for Completing Licensing Examination Sequence

· No limit on COMLEX

Puerto Rico

✓ Accepts FCVS

Number of attempts at Licensing Exam

· No limit on USMLE

Minimum Postgraduate Training Required

1 year

Time Limit for Completing Licensing Examination Sequence

• USMLE Step 3 shall be passed within 7 years of the date of passing Step 1.



Rhode Island

✓ Requires FCVS

Number of attempts at Licensing Exam

- · 3 attempts at each USMLE Step
- · 3 attempts at each COMLEX Level

Minimum Postgraduate Training Required

- · 2 years
- · 2 years IMG

Time Limit for Completing Licensing Examination Sequence

- · 7 years to complete USMLE
- · No information available on COMLEX

American Samoa

Number of attempts at Licensing Exam

· No information available at this time

Minimum Postgraduate Training Required

· No information available at this time

Time Limit for Completing Licensing Examination Sequence

· No information available at this time





South Carolina

✓ Requires FCVS

Number of attempts at Licensing Exam

· 4 attempts per USMLE Step and COMLEX Level

Minimum Postgraduate Training Required

- 1 year
- · 3 years IMG

Time Limit for Completing Licensing Examination Sequence

• 10 years to complete USMLE or COMLEX

South Dakota

✓ Accepts FCVS

Number of attempts at Licensing Exam

· Allowed 3 attempts, must pass on third, for the USMLE or COMLEX examination

Minimum Postgraduate Training Required

· Successful completion of residency program

Time Limit for Completing Licensing Examination Sequence

- · 7 years to complete USMLE or COMLEX
- · 10 years for Dual Program Degree MD-PhD Applicant





Tennessee Medical

✓ Accepts FCVS

Number of attempts at Licensing Exam

Applicants who fails any step of the USMLE or FLEX more than (3) times must show ABMS board certification
 & proof of meeting requirements for Maintenance of Certification to be considered for licensure.

Minimum Postgraduate Training Required

- 1 year
- · 3 years IMG

Time Limit for Completing Licensing Examination Sequence

 All three steps must be taken and passed within ten (10) years of the first successful step, unless you qualify under an exception.

Tennessee Osteopathic

✓ Accepts FCVS

Number of attempts at Licensing Exam

· 3 attempts

Minimum Postgraduate Training Required

1 year

Time Limit for Completing Licensing Examination Sequence

· No limit on COMLEX





Texas

✓ Accepts FCVS

Number of attempts at Licensing Exam

 3 attempts at each USMLE Step or COMLEX Level. (Exceptions may apply for applicants who held a Texas Physician in Training permit on or before September 1, 2005 or who have been licensed in good standing in another state for 5 years. See TMB website for more information.)

Minimum Postgraduate Training Required

- 1 year
- · 2 years IMG

Time Limit for Completing Licensing Examination Sequence

 7 years+ to complete the USMLE or COMLEX. (Exceptions may apply for applicants who are especially board certified or who completed combined MD/PhD programs, or who exceed the time limit but are willing to accept a limited license to practice exclusively in an MUA or HPSA. See TMB website for more information.)

Utah Medical

✓ Requires FCVS

Number of attempts at Licensing Exam

• 3 attempts at USMLE Step 3

Minimum Postgraduate Training Required

2 years completed - OR - 1 year of training complete, with a second year in the state of Utah in progress

Time Limit for Completing Licensing Examination Sequence

- 7 years to complete USMLE
- · 10 years for MD/PhD candidates





Utah Osteopathic

✓ Requires FCVS

Number of attempts at Licensing Exam

• 3 attempts at each COMLEX Level

Minimum Postgraduate Training Required

· 2 years completed OR 1 year of training complete, with a second year in the state of Utah in progress

Time Limit for Completing Licensing Examination Sequence

- 7 years to complete COMLEX
- · 10 years for DO/PhD candidates

Vermont Medical

✓ Accepts FCVS

Number of attempts at Licensing Exam

• 3 attempts at USMLE Step 3

Minimum Postgraduate Training Required

- 2 years
- · 3 years IMG

Time Limit for Completing Licensing Examination Sequence

• 7 years to complete USMLE





Vermont Osteopathic

✓ Accepts FCVS

Number of attempts at Licensing Exam

· No information available at this time

Minimum Postgraduate Training Required

• 1 year rotating internship or 3 year residency program

Time Limit for Completing Licensing Examination Sequence

· No information available at this time

Virgin Islands

✓ Requires FCVS

Number of attempts at Licensing Exam

· Must take SPEX (only given in May and November) and an oral exam. 2 attempts

Minimum Postgraduate Training Required

· 6 months required after 2 attempts for SPEX exam

Time Limit for Completing Licensing Examination Sequence

 3 years to pass the 2 attempts allowed for re-examination. 1 year limitation to take the oral exam after passing written.





Virginia

✓ Accepts FCVS

Number of attempts at Licensing Exam

· No limit on USMLE

Minimum Postgraduate Training Required

1 year

Time Limit for Completing Licensing Examination Sequence

• 10 years to complete USMLE; Greater than 10 years if candidate is ABMS certified.

Washington Medical

✓ Accepts FCVS

Number of attempts at Licensing Exam

• 3 attempts at USMLE Step 3

Minimum Postgraduate Training Required

2 years

Time Limit for Completing Licensing Examination Sequence

· 7 years+ to complete USMLE



Washington Osteopathic

✓ Accepts FCVS

Number of attempts at Licensing Exam

· 3 attempts on COMLEX

Minimum Postgraduate Training Required

1 year

Time Limit for Completing Licensing Examination Sequence

· No limit on COMLEX

West Virginia Medical

✓ Accepts FCVS

Number of attempts at Licensing Exam

· 6 attempts per USMLE Step or Step component

Minimum Postgraduate Training Required

- 1 year
- · 3 years IMG

Time Limit for Completing Licensing Examination Sequence

· 10 years to complete USMLE



West Virginia Osteopathic

Number of attempts at Licensing Exam

· No limit on COMLEX

Minimum Postgraduate Training Required

1 year

Time Limit for Completing Licensing Examination Sequence

· No limit on COMLEX

Wisconsin

✓ Accepts FCVS

Number of attempts at Licensing Exam

· 3 attempts at each USMLE step/COMLEX level

Minimum Postgraduate Training Required

· 2 years

Time Limit for Completing Licensing Examination Sequence

- USMLE Step 3 shall be passed within 10 years of the date of passing Step 1
- N/A on COMLEX



Wyoming

✓ Requires FCVS

Number of attempts at Licensing Exam

· 7 total attempts on USMLE or COMLEX in 7 years

Minimum Postgraduate Training Required

 2 years (1 year if applicant has current certification by an ABMS or AOABOS/BOC specialty board, or continuous licensure in good standing in 1 or more states and/or D.C. for the preceding 5 years.)

Time Limit for Completing Licensing Examination Sequence

• 7 years (8 years if in combined DO or MD/PhD program)